

# HI-TECH TERROR



# # 14

Established in May 1985 at  
Kirkhampton, Penn by Craig  
Lesbette, Editor Emeritus  
and Contributor.

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14 - August 1986.

## EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION AND IMPORTANT INFO!

As some of you are well aware, Craig Lesbette has opted to re-sell his editors' shoes and foolishly allowed me to oversee his prestigious publication, HI-TECH TERROR! Poor Craig, I led him down a rocky path making him believe I'd do as fine a job as he's been doing the past thirteen editions! With a gullible chap. By the way, did you know they took the word "gullible" out of the dictionary? Yeah, it's true ... Go ahead, look it up!

With all that falderal out the way, I'm Tim Ferrante! Craig Lesbette has entrusted me to continue with his terrific 'zine while he cools his jets. Craig is hardly out of the picture, and you. He will still (and this is IMPORTANT!) handle the subscription renewal notices and collect the money. He's also promised to have a review in each issue until he decides to climb back into the drivers seat as full-time editor! However, all reviews, letters of comment or threat, ads, mags, guests and "zine plugs should be sent to me at the address above. Of course you sure can write to Craig, but things for publications go to me for the time being!

Just in case any one of you characters are wondering, "hey, who is this Ferrante clown?" I'll be brief ... I've known Craig for a few years now and we've spoken on the phone many times. I assure you, he's a gentleman on all counts. Having tossed him a few reviews in past issues, I hated to see this 'zine fold ... I really enjoyed reading everyone's work! After some mild arm-twisting, he conceded to let me carry the ball. I've written for various fan publications as well as FANZINEA. I work in the entertainment industry and am part of DWGONE, INC. (see the enclosed flyer for our latest book!) If my reader is searching for one of the books we publish, please feel free to write me. Our books are BEZARD (formerly CRAMIE BLISS-HORN) by Tom Swain, DRUGISM IN THE FANTASY CINEMA by Bill George (this book was previously sold-out but we've had it reprinted and copies are now IN STOCK!), DICK SMITHS MONSTER MAKE-UP BOOK by Dick Smith, THE COMPLETE NOODS OF THE LIVING DEAD FILMBOOK by John Russo and HORROR J ACKERMAN: PAROUS MONSTER OF FILMBOOK by Forey! Moreover, any books published by DWGONE, INC. can be directly obtained from me at the above address! Or simply send your order to the Pittsburgh address as shown on the flyer. Enough plugs for the company ... How did my ben segue into a commercial?!!

CORRECTION: Way back in HI-TECH #6, MICHAEL DEARDI topped Raymond Young wrote a review on a vid title, AMOS. He stated that it was a hybrid made-for-TV book. Correct on two counts, it was a book and certainly made for TV! The pic did air under the title of IT HAPPENED AT LATE WOOD MANSION on the ABC Network. It later resurfaced as PWING AT LATE WOOD MANSION. This is just a bit of info I thought needed updating.

Plus, I publish a bi-monthly tabloid covering the much-maligned genre of Italian Westerns. It's called WESTERN ... ALL ITALIAN! and some of the HI-TECH folks reading this now are subscribers. Isn't that right Keith, Bill, Michael, Donald, Lindsey and others? For additional info, please write me.

Lastly, (We seem to be making a finally great shakedown!) the format and page count of this 'zine may vary as much as it did make a long version. I think we'll pretty much keep the wrap-around full time routine and avoid costly envelopes. Perhaps this will help to up the page count! You'll also notice that the back 3 page will be set aside for reader ads, letters or messages at random. If nothing comes in, then news will be slotted there.

We're all

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CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE:

BRIS GILPIN   CRAIG JOSEPH   TIM FERRANTE   DONALD FARMER   DAVID KOLFF   JEFF SMITH  
RAYMOND YOUNG   RICHIE RHEAS

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BLOOD COWS by Craig Joseph.  
(1973) VHS Video. \$59.95

What a shame WJ decided to release the butchered version of GARJA AND HESS. While gore fans are rejoicing over that extra minute of depravity added to LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT, fans of quality low-budget horror have to wonder what happened to 27 minutes of plot contained in the film's original version. Thank God the tape distributors didn't get ahold of the film when it went under the moniker DOUBLE HUSBANDS, as another 5 minutes were hacked out under that title!

Duane Jones (the excellent black actor from NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD) is Hess, an expert in Nigerian culture. He is studying the Hyrthians, and offshoot cult who believed in the life extending properties of drinking blood. Taking on an assistant George Mader, who just happens to be a suicidally prone schizophrenic, they begin their study. Mader attacks and kills (or so he thinks) Hess by using an ancient knife which just so happens to be diseased, thus infecting Hess with the desire to drink human blood. All of this is very confusing (due no doubt to the missing footage) and this confusion stays throughout the film. Eventually Mader's wife Garja arrives on the scene and is brought into the vampire fold. The ending is so badly edited, I couldn't begin to explain it!

I saw the complete film years ago and was impressed. In its original form, it represented the finest blaxploitation/horror film made. The original director/writer Bill Gunn fortunately had his name removed from this version (a misread name F.L. Novikov is credited). I definitely recommend you NOT rent this version.

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NOT FOR THE  
FAINT-HEARTED!  
**MONDO  
MAGIC**



MONDO MAGIC by Tim Ferrante.  
Hagman Video, One-half of their  
Shock Box. \$39.95 single price.

MONDO MAGIC is Hagman Videos lesser half of a duo release known as The Shock Box. Paired with SHOCKING ASIA, the set retails at \$79.95. Pic is yet another Italian backed gut-spiller that parallels it's predecessors such as SAVAGE MAN, SAVAGE BEAST and SAVAGE AND SAVAGE. Poorly mounted docu-footage wastes much time lingering on slasher-inducing tribal dances and rituals that the few moments of accu-gore are barely worth the wait. Merely a wolf-in-sheep's-clothing, MONDO MAGIC hardly deserves the space here. Nice musical score but two-compared are probably so used to batoning these entrail tests that any musical approach will suffice. SKIP CITY !!!

MACABE by Donald Famer.  
Majest Communications. \$39.95

spotting this title on the video shelf recently, I had to take a closer look. It couldn't be that Stuart Whitman/crawling hand pic known alternately as MACABE or DIMENSION, and I doubted it was William Castle's PSE MACABE starring the always horrifying Jim Backus. I knew better than to hope it might be Umberto Lenzi's yet-to-be-released MACABED. Anyway, two hours later and two looks poorer I can report that MACABE is the video release title of an infernally dreary, Italian potboiler about a bored wife who won't screw boyfriend till he promises to kill her husband (who's his identical twin!) This time-waster has been packaged to look like a horror movie so suckers like me would rent it. Don't let this happen to you! Steer clear of MACABE!



SERAPHIM, by Jeff Smith.  
\$69.95

There's one good thing about an anthology title: if you get stuck with a dull plot you can at least say to yourself, "Well, maybe the next one will be better." Back to our such delicious for SERAPHIM, a dreary trilogy of tales which, despite the presence of the "F" kind and one graphic throat-slashing, seem to be episodes of some British

AT RIGHE! The sexy bloodthirsty beauty Hilary Lapton, star of THE SHATTER TIMES editor/vid-makers new got-blunder - CANNIBAL HEARDS.

Donald Famer sent this gussy still along as a special sneak peak for B-TF readers. I can clearly see two fine reasons why I'll be looking forward to this made-for-home-video shocker! Alto boy, Donald ! !

WARM BLOOD  
ISN'T ALL  
THEY SUCK!



TV horror program, linked together by what has to be the worst-acted teasing device of all time. We'll not mention the fact that it's set in a slummy section of New York, where the accounts clash with the "wacky British" episodes. Only one of the episodes is even remotely entertaining. In it, a young couple move into a new home and the wife begins having hallucinations in which a cruel maniac slaughters an entire family. In a fairly decent twist ending, we find that these were not hallucinations from the past but premonitions of the future, as her husband is killed by the maniac in the final scene. Still, the

building to this is an lethargic and drawn-out that any twist would have been welcome. The first and third episodes concerning, respectively, a sinister puppeteer and garden games which come to life, manage to be both dull and dumb. Another case of vicious boredom in its extreme stages. Stay away!

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HOSPITAL OF TERROR by Kris Galpin.  
Super Video \$59.95

A recent Al Adamson-directed (SADOM'S SADISTS, DRACULA VS. FRANKENSTEIN) vid offering is HOSPITAL OF TERROR. Theatrically released as NURSE SIBBELL and popping up on local tv as BEYOND THE LIVING (Also titled KILLERS CURSE in many foreign markets. - Yif P.) it is appropriately titled as the story of a dead con man whose spirit literally enters the body of a nurse who works there. This happens when the devil-worshipping con man's spirit, now in the form of a glittering, animated green cloud, rapes the nurse in her bed one night. The green non-mass actually giggles while it does its dirty deed. Needless to say, the hospital employee then proceeds to perform exorcisms, such as puncturing a flamer with a pitchfork. There is a black, blinded football player, who is a patient in the title hospital, that develops a psychic link with the nurses rampages; and everyone in the cast got screwed (including the viewer -- yuk yuk).

With typical dumb acting and stock musical stings which are so melodramatic they are hysterical, HOSPITAL OF TERROR looks as though most of it was edited in the camera, causing it to move along like a B.G. Lewis epic. Just is also filled with a car chase and redundant, unnecessary flashbacks to old events in the film. However, due to its super-cheapo style and those outrageous music stings, this tape is good for a couple of laughs.

Al Adamson strikes again -- if you've avoiced his previous schlock, it's worth a look!

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LAND OF THE MINOTAUR by David Dodge.  
United Home Video \$49.95



Now before any of our less sensitive readers start hollering "Land of the Soy-Snuff," the Minotaur was the half man/half bull result of a heavily cross-breeding between a King's wife and a bull once intended for sacrifice due to the indignance of spiteful Greek gods, whose deities later provided an annual sacrifice of young ones to the monstrous offspring.

In this Greek production, the bull-headed denigal appears in the form of a fire-spouting statue who communicates telepathically while Peter Onofre does all the dirty work with the aid of local villagers. Donald Pleasence portrays a priest who's usually chummy with some hippie archeology students, and not only that, has a private-eye friend while no time flying over (and the statue to

investigate his young friends' disappearance. Father Ben isn't swayed by any historical precedent - to him it's all a peccadewus sideline for Satanic mischief, which is no doubt why Arthur Rowe's script leaves no loose ends with clacks returned. The production compliments the screenplay with all too familiar sacrificial altar scenes, costumes and even a bit of poor day for night shooting alternating with shots occurring in the darkest night.

Although the demise of Padre Planchette is depicted in the telepathic imaginings of the sedentary title character, he saves the day with plenty of crucifix swinging and pious chanting which has the slaughter-happy social cladders bursting into fiery chaos.

I've read of this feature once carrying an R rating and containing a bit of sex, don't expect any from this PG rated cassette. I would've loved to see the Minotaur breakfast of that statuesque pole and do something real kinky with those horns.

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THE BIG DOLL HOUSE by Raymond Young.  
Embassy Home Video \$99.95



Seldom dull, this entertaining women's-jungle-prison story was co-produced by John Ashley and Eddie "Blood Island" Romero. Zero budget and Philippine locales provide backdrop to tale of man-starved cunts subjected to a warden's nasty rehab program (shock therapy, torture, etc...) when they're not fighting one another. Venomous snakes, heroin junkies, cockroach races, mud wrestling, fowl fights and dirty language serve as character development in writer/director Jack Hill's boxoffice smash that led to THE BIG BIRD CAGE and a whole new breed of women's prison filx from Roger Corman's New World Pictures. A lot of fun despite its flaws. Judy Brown, Roberta Collins, Pam Grier. (Can anyone explain why the MGM logo is on this videocassette?) [The only connection I can readily supply between this New World Release and MGM is the fact that MGM Intl. processed the film TV spots as well as several other N.W. pictures during this early 70's period. - Tim F.]

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THE BURNING MAN by Jeff Smith.  
Crest Video \$29.95

With only four scenes of what could remotely be called bloodletting, I could hardly dub this B.C. Lewis dir. a "porn" film, and since gore content is usually the only thing of interest in an B.C. film, I found THE BURNING MAN/IAS pretty tepid. The premise - a spooky Civil War-type village in which the "Gentlemen" are calculated via blood sacrifices - is set up in the first five minutes and yet it wanders around for an eter-

only waiting to spring some real "surprise" ending on us. They were all GIBBS, y'know.

There is none of the tongue-in-cheek cheesiness that made BLOOD FLOW such an enjoyably trashy film and TWO THOUSAND MURDERS comes off merely as an exercise in tedium. It would be redundant to mention the awful acting, the cardboard props or the laughably poor quality of the gore effects as these are already legendary.

Given the varying levels of quality between the Lewis films I've seen (BLOOD FLOW, while technically a joke, is much more enjoyable) it's no wonder Herschell is such a controversial figure.

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GATOR BAIT by Meyer Maus.  
Independent United Distributors \$49.95

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Here's an obscure piece of exploitive crap that has thankfully made it to the video market via the courageous folks at IUD Video. [IUD Video?!!] Is anyone that looney to name their company IUD? Sounds like an outfit that specializes in preventive birth tapes! - Tim F.] Made a decade ago by Ford and Beverly C. Sebastian (husband & wife?), GATOR BAIT makes for a great watch simply because of its non-stop pathosness.

The rambling plot centers around a very vey "swamp girl" named Desiree (Claudia Jennings) who escapes from the local police after being caught in the act of poaching one of the swamp alligators. During her escape, a hunting officer (the sheriff's son, o' course) accidentally shoots and kills an innocent bystander. Instead of admitting this, the officer decide to take himself off the hook and pin the murder rap on Desiree. His Dad has no problem believing his ridiculous story and decides to hunt the swamp for Desiree and bring her to justice. The police (all two of them) join a handful of red-necks and enter the swamp searching for the girl.

Very bad decision, guys.

Throughout the rest of the hour and a half flick, Desiree turns the tables and begins hunting the men. One by one, she kills them; more often than not with her shotgun. The hunters have now become the hunted! (I know, it's a godawful cliché, but I couldn't pass up the opportunity!)

No doubt about it: GATOR BAIT is an all around pathetic film with no socially redeeming qualities whatsoever. It's totally amateurish shit that resembles a home movie. And as Leo Maltin said, it has some "moments of truly repellent violence."

Not boy, whatta flick.

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Go here for a double-barreled Ashley/Romero set of reviews when David Dodge uncovers two of the infamous terror film collaborations. SCARY/ATTEMPT is about Tim Michael Grinstead will visit hospital where acid face baths are popular and SUBMERS boss Cecil Goye tackles a review of a Larry Buchanan oddity available through ... oh, why spoil the surprises. There is plenty more to come and you can expect the next barrage of write-ups around September 16th! Give or take a day ...!

## HI-TECH ATROCITIES

Word has it that Wizard Video - that neat offshoot of Empire Pictures - may be having tough times. With their mealticket Vestron Video expanding and deepening the flow of red ink in their ledger books, Good ol' Charlie Band might not be able to cram just any tired import down Vestron's jugular. The month of June was "Wizard Video Sale Month" for many video retailers. The usual \$59.95 list product was being blown-out at \$29.95 to stimulate a sell-thru market for the line. Warehouse stock is still abundant on many of the titles and this one month only sale was an effort to generate some fast cash.||||Keep an eyeball sighted on those Media Home Entertainment horror titles. They've knocked down suggested retail on many of thier hot titles to \$19.95! HALLOWEEN and A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET join the ranks of affordable pre-records.||||Super Video, those boffo exec's responsible for the release of genre gems as DRACULA VS. FRANKENSTEIN and BLOOD OF GHASTLY HORROR, is cranking up their release pattern again after a brief hiatus. Expect from them DAY OF THE MANIAC! You'll know a Super Video release when you see one. They've used crack artists as Famous Monsters fave, Basil Gogos (NIGHT OF THE HOWLING BEAST cover) and DC Comic craftsman, Luis Dominguez (SATAN'S SADISTS cover).||||MAD DOCTOR OF BLOOD ISLAND has finally reached the home circuit. Magnum Video has paired this release with BRAIN OF BLOOD, aka THE CREATURES REVENGE on tv. Shot in less than two weeks, BRAIN is deserving of a look-see to fully appreciate the virtues of low-budget cinema!||||Hey! How about that Trans-World Entertainment full-pager in the Summer issues of VIDEO and VIDEO REVIEW magazines! That's the one offering the FREE trailer cassette to MONSTER DOG. They make it clear that this giveaway is for retailers only, but maybe you can flam these people by putting a bogus store name down on the ordering coupon! Worth a shot ... ||||Caution to vidiots who rent GRAVEYARD OF HORROR and NECROMANIAC. They're the same film. Evidently the folks who released NECROMANIAC weren't aware....||||See you all in SIX!!

I'LL BE RESERVING THIS AREA FOR HI-TECH ATROCITIES ... FANZINE PLUGS ... SMALL CLASSIFIED ADS ... READER LETTERS ... This is YOUR SPACE (Hey! Gimmie my space, man!) and you'll decide what goes here. Send in yer stuff!